

FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007
House of Representatives - September 20, 2007

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes, and yield to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. *Waxman*).

Mr. WAXMAN. I thank Chairman *Oberstar* for yielding to me.

I am rising out of concern about a serious safety problem at the Santa Monica General Aviation Airport in my congressional district.

The Santa Monica Airport is a unique facility. It was built in 1922 and has no runway safety areas which are now required by the FAA to enable a safe landing in the event that an aircraft overshoots the runway or fails to lift off.

The airport's single runway is bordered by steep hills, public streets, and densely populated neighborhoods, with homes as close as 250 feet from the runway. As traffic has increased, so have concerns that any plane overshooting the runway would be at great risk of landing in the neighborhood.

For more than 7 years, I have worked with the City of Santa Monica and the Airport Administration to push the FAA to address this serious safety problem. Regrettably, the FAA has been unwilling to take meaningful action. The FAA recently issued a final decision to permit only minor runway changes that are far below FAA standards and would do little to change the status quo.

I want to ask Chairman *Oberstar* to work with me and the FAA to find a solution that is consistent with FAA design guidelines for the Santa Monica Airport and adequately addresses the safety needs of all aircraft categories that use the airport.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I thank the gentleman for raising that issue. Lack of a runway safety area on an airport is a critical gap, a serious gap in the safety features of an airport, and I assure the gentleman we will invite the Santa Monica Airport Authority, with the gentleman's participation, and the Office of Airports of FAA to come in to

have a discussion about the safety needs of this airport and funding them within the airport's master plan into the future.

Mr. WAXMAN. I thank you for your willingness to try to bring us all together. I just want to emphasize that time is of the essence here. We need to do all we can to make operations at Santa Monica Airport safer for the pilots, passengers, and people on the ground. We may need legislative changes in that regard.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds.

I just want to add to the colloquy, and pledge to the gentleman from California that I look forward to working with the Chair of the full committee to address the safety issues of the Santa Monica Airport that you have raised here before the House today.

So you have our commitment on this side of the aisle. It is a safety issue, and we appreciate the gentleman bringing this matter before the House and we assure again our cooperation.

I reserve the balance of my time.